



VOL XX.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE.

In conversation with a friend, a long time since, he observed that he had taught his hogs to root and eat the tubers of the common Jerusalem artichoke, which he had growing on a lot of waste land, and that he found it not only an advantage to them as a matter of nutriment, but it kept them employed, and out of mischief. We have heard this last requirement highly recommended to certain hinds, but not to quadrupeds of this description. Our friend, however, says hogs are a thoughtful animal, and must either be kept so fat that they cannot move about much, or they should be kept busy about something useful to themselves or their owners, as they certainly would get into mischief.

A GLENBURN FARMER.

Note. (1.) Not exactly plaster but a mixture of plaster with a larger portion of phosphate of lime, or rather bi-phosphate of lime, as chemists call it.

(2.) Our opinion that it is good policy for farmers to purchase bone dust to enrich their land, is based upon the expressed or implied fact that the land was deficient in that substance.

We would not advise a man to purchase a great coat and put on, when he has already two or three on his back; nor go to the tavern and buy a dinner when he has just filled his stomach at his own table, and has plenty more food in his head. If his land contains enough of any material, it is not necessary to add any more. In regard to phosphate of lime, it requires but a comparatively small quantity per acre to supply what would be taken up by a single crop of wheat.

Whether more should or should not be added, depends upon the amount of means which the farmer has to spare to procure the supply. In the case of Mr. Johnson, who has abundance of means, he probably thought his money as profitably invested, in the way he did invest it, as it would have been in many other kinds of stock. As for its "being a wasteful expenditure," the result does not warrant that expression. It is true that this instance is an extra one, and like one swallow, as an indicator of summer, should not be considered as an unerring guide; nor, at the same time, should it be considered, as a dangerous precedent to follow.

Prejudice still says that all efforts with a view to make improvements in agriculture are unavailing, that agricultural papers are valueless, and that science can be of no possible service to the farmer. Now that our agriculture may be rendered highly lucrative and prosperous is a certain fact—it is no phantom. The people should not be wanting in zeal, intelligence or practical skill.

These roots are not remarkable for nutritive properties. They are considered as a cooling and laxative food for cattle that are troubled with costiveness or an inflammatory condition of the bowels. The plant will grow luxuriantly in almost any situation, and although our season is not sufficiently long to mature its seed, it will propagate itself by means of its tubers, the smallest swell of the root seemingly containing vitality enough to make a crop sufficient in time to cover a whole farm.

There seems to be quite a large percentage of sugar or saccharine matter in this root, which, together with a little gummy matter, and some albumen, composes the most of its nutriment.

Bracconot, the chemist went through a careful analysis of this root, and from his tables we take the following as a list of the substances and their proportions, as he found them in 100 parts:

Unerystallized sugar,	14 80
Inosine, (vegetable extract,)	3 00
Gum,	1 22
Albumen,	99
Fatty matter,	09
Citrate of potash and lime,	1 15
Phosphate of potash and lime,	20
Sulphate of potash,	12
Chloride of potassium,	08
Malates and tartrates of potash and lime,	05
Woody fibre,	1 22
Silica,	03
Water,	77 05
	100 00

Hogs, when confined in pens, will eat the leaves of the Jerusalem Artichoke, when thrown to them. Boussingault says, "There are few plants more hardy and so little nice about soils as the Jerusalem Artichoke. It succeeds everywhere, with the single condition that the ground be not wet."

In regard to its productiveness he observes, "Of all the plants that engage the husbandmen the Jerusalem Artichoke is that which produces the most at the least expense of manure and manual labor." Kade says that a square patch of Jerusalem Artichokes in a garden was still in productive vigor, at the end of thirty-three years, throwing out stems from seven to ten feet in length, although for a very long time the plant had neither received any care nor any manure.

For the Maine Farmer.

PHOSPHATE OF LIME. No. 4.

Mr. EDITOR:—I am somewhat "in the fog, yet," but not lost in it in regard to phosphate of lime. Your notes upon my last number are a rich crop of information, for which, I doubt not, every one of your fifty readers will thank you. The Hon. Reverdy Johnson, it seems, purchased an exhausted farm, worn out by continual cropping with corn. In order to know how to restore it to fertility, he employed a chemist to analyze the soil, and tell him what was lacking. He did so, and in the analysis, as published, we find "Phosphorus, 0"—none! Phosphorus, or phosphoric acid, was all that was lacking to restore this land to fertility. The next question to the chemist was, of course, how can this deficiency be supplied? "He recommended a preparation composed of bi-phosphate of lime. This is obtained by dissolving bones in sulphuric acid," which is the same as plaster. (1.) This preparation was applied at a cost of "ten dollars per acre; and the result was, twenty nine bushels of good wheat where only one peck of corn grew before. This account was published in all the papers in New England, to show the importance of chemical knowledge to the farmer. And Mr. Johnson is held up as a model for farmers to follow, and as being a very sensible man. Very well so far. Ten dollars was the cost per acre for the bones and sulphuric acid. The cost of bone dust at the Roxbury mills is 35 cents per bushel, and 15 cents would purchase, I suppose, the acid to dissolve them, so that the \$10 per acre would buy 20 bushels of the preparation.

In your notes to my first number, Mr. Editor, you say: "It has been calculated, by several chemists, that a bushel of bones (bone dust) will give as much phosphate of lime as is usually contained in the crop of wheat gathered from an acre of land." If, then, one bushel is sufficient, why apply twenty?—and still hold up the man who does it as a model for others? None but a rich man could sustain such a wasteful expenditure. Mr. Johnson is very rich, and can, without inconvenience, manure his land twenty years in advance.

But, admitting the application of bone dust and sulphuric acid was the best means to furnish phosphate of lime to Mr. Johnson's land, does it follow that the Maine farmer should pursue the

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING,

MECHANIC ARTS

FEBRUARY 26, 1852.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE &c

NO. 9.

leisure, to John T. Goss. On best breeding sow, to John T. Goss. On best six pigs, to Sumner Whitney. On FARMING TOOLS. S. E. Phillips, Chairman. First premium on iron bound cart wheels, to Hiram Stevens. For best ox-yoke, to H. C. Currier.

BUTTER AND CHEESE. D. Eastman, Chairman. First premium on butter, to Mrs. Hiriam Stevens; 2d, to Mrs. J. W. Haines; 3d, to Mrs. E. S. Fowler; 4th, to Mrs. John Allen. First premium on cheese, to Mrs. S. Whitney; 2d, to Mrs. J. Hopkins; 3d, to Mrs. W. Hall. B. Cummings, Cor. Secretary.

Written for the Maine Farmer.

THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD Husbandry.

Mr. EDITOR:—It is generally admitted among the most intelligent and discriminating, that improvement in farming is pre-eminently calculated to advance the public prosperity. It has been said that public opinion is very much at fault in reference to this important subject. When some great object arouses the attention of the people, we find the public mind is often wrought up to a feverish excitement. Prominent men are seen to step forward and avow their sentiments in a most emphatic manner. This is all well enough, perhaps. It has been said that zeal in a good cause is always commendable. But we think that agriculture has not received so much of the public attention as some other objects far inferior in point of utility. Whether we shall witness a better state of things remains for time to determine.

Prejudice still says that all efforts with a view to make improvements in agriculture are unavailing, that agricultural papers are valueless, and that science can be of no possible service to the farmer. Now that our agriculture may be rendered highly lucrative and prosperous is a certain fact—it is no phantom.

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It is a right way in conducting every operation upon the farm, and if only a single agriculturist strike upon the best methods of management, we can see no reason why the whole mass of our farmers should not be benefited by the knowledge acquired by theoretical or practical, should be for the benefit of the whole; but we should come as near to facts as possible, as false or unfounded theories, if not corrected, must be rather injurious in their effects.

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It is a right way in conducting every operation upon the farm, and if only a single agriculturist strike



R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor

AUGUSTA:

THURSDAY MORNING, FEB. 26, 1852.

COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

A complete bird's-eye view, if we may so call it, of the commerce of the United States, showing what we buy and what we sell, together with the amount of business set in motion by the various commercial operations of the country would not be interesting, but highly instructive.

The annual report of the United States Treasurer concerning our exports and imports comes the nearest to this of any thing we know of, but after all it is but a mere catalogue of items with amounts carried out in tabular form.

They are valuable as statistics, but are not instructive in regard to industrial operations, or as accounts of the varieties of business in detail. They give a good view of the amounts of the great staple articles imported and exported, and show us where the balance of trade lies—whether for us or against us; and we are sorry to say, for the last five or six years it has as generally been against us, and our cash has had to be shipped off to pay up the deficiency.

In looking over this catalogue of imports and exports, it is not a little singular that by far the greatest bulk of the three greatest kinds of fabrics, for instance, that we import, viz., cotton, woolen and silk fabrics, are purchased, not in the countries where the raw materials of each of these are produced, but from a country where two of them are not produced at all, and but comparatively a little of the third. This country is England. She produces no cotton, no silk, and but little wool; and yet we bought of her, during 1850, of woollen goods, (\$17,151,509,) seventeen millions one hundred and fifty-one thousand five hundred and nine dollars worth.—

Of cotton goods, (\$20,008,719,) twenty millions eight thousand seven hundred and nineteen dollars worth. Of silk fabrics, (\$19,694,818,) nineteen millions six hundred ninety-four thousand eight hundred and eighteen dollars' worth—which makes an aggregate of \$56,855,46.

This is patronizing the workshops of one nation pretty liberally. Now we of the United States could not only raise cotton enough, wool enough and silk enough to supply the whole world, but could manufacture them when we have raised them. Why don't we do it? Aye, sure enough, why don't we?

THOUGHTS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF HALLS IN REGARD TO THE LAWS OF SOUND.

Halls, especially public halls, are used in this country as places in which speakers may address large collections of people. It is therefore necessary that they should be so constructed that the voice of the speaker should pass easily and clearly throughout—easily to the speaker and clearly to the hearer. Every one who has spoken in different places, knows, from experience, that there is a vast difference in rooms in regard to this. In some, the speaker can stand at one end and send his voice all over the space, however densely it may be crowded, without any extra effort. He then can speak with ease, and is liable to be fatigued very little. On the other hand, the same speaker, placed in a hall or room of a different construction, finds that it is almost impossible to be heard, however strong he may give utterance to his voice. His voice seems to be either lost, or there is an echo or reverberation which destroys its distinctness.

Very little thought or study is given to the principles of sound by people who construct such rooms, or who are having them constructed, is sufficient to obviate these difficulties. These halls are generally built according to the space which the proprietor may happen to have, and not by any rule in accordance with the laws of sound, or acoustics, as it is technically called.

We believe the results of experiments have led to this conclusion, viz., That the proportions for a room or hall, in which sound will be propelled easiest and most distinctly are these: Twice and a half as wide as it is high, and once and a half as long as it is wide. For instance, a hall sixty feet long should be forty feet wide and sixteen feet high; or if you can have it but ten feet high, it should be twenty-five feet wide and thirty-seven and a half feet long. We do not vouch for the correctness of this, but we have known some halls built in accordance with the rule which were found to be exceedingly easy to speak in. One of the first proportions, would transmit a whisper from you standing at one end to the ear of another standing at the other end, with great distinctness.

The following statement is from a paper read to the British Association, which seems to indicate that every room has a key note, on which, if the voice be pitched, the sound will be easily transmitted. We publish the remarks, but know nothing of the facts in regard to it.

"Mr. J. S. Russell has read to the British Association a paper on the application of some known laws of Sound to the Construction of Buildings. Some of the laws of sound were not known till very recently; still, a great many of them were always known. He proceeded to explain a plan of construction by which twenty thousand persons can be accommodated in a single building, if necessary, and by a manner that each individual will be able to hear the voice of a single speaker. It was well known, that sound proceeds in a straight line, not round angles. The first element of the construction was, that all the heads of the audience should form a certain curve, the focus of which was the head of the speaker, so that the head of each auditor should not interfere with another, and that each should imagine himself in as good a position as possible to hear the speaker. He (Mr. Russell) found by experiment that a person speaking in a moderate tone of voice in the open air could be heard at a distance of 280 feet. That distance in a building would accommodate fifteen thousand persons. Such buildings had not yet been made to contain more than four thousand persons, but they were very successful. Mr. Russell then proceeded to explain the geometrical construction of the curve, which will accommodate and furnish which is clearly evident that the undulation or swell of the mouth of the speaker reached the auditor in a direct line, and without the slightest interruption. He had published a paper on it some time ago, which had not been attended to until a young architect adopted his mode of construction, and built twenty or thirty houses of the kind. After some further observations, he remarked that a speaker should always adapt the tones of his voice to the key-note of the room he was in. A speaker, who could not easily be done by a tuning-fork, if he tried to speak in any other note, he would create inharmonious sounds, and render his voice very indistinct. If he took a room 32 feet long, his key-note would be C, the same as on an organ pipe of the same length; if 253 feet, the key-note would be E, and so on, and the speaker should pitch his voice to a tone most suitable to the room, and thereby he would be enabled to speak with clearness. Roomy rooms not to be constructed in transverse, parallel forms of a different size, for then the speaker could not possibly suit his voice to both, but would create an inharmonious jarring, or what he called spontaneous oscillation in a room."

Fairfield, February, 1852.

THE MAINE FARMER: AN

AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

FARMER'S MONTHLY VISITOR. After a gentle sleep of a few months the Visitor has waked up, much refreshed, with a new dress and fixins to match, and comes to us from the press of Rowell, Prescott & Co., Manchester, N. H. It is under the editorial charge of Dr. C. E. Potter, who will make a useful and interesting work of it.

ARVINE'S CYCLOPEDIA OF ANECDOTES. We have received the 7th number of this entertaining work, which progresses with undiminished interest. One more number will complete the work. So much interesting matter is not often to be had for a quarter. Gould & Lincoln, publishers, Boston.

CLERK'S JOURNAL. We have received the first numbers of a new paper, with the above title, very neatly printed on nice paper, and showing much ability in its management. It is devoted to the interests of the Clerks of New York, and is deserving a liberal sustenance from them. Its terms are \$2.00 per annum.

NORTH AMERICAN MISCELLANY. We have received the February number of this work. It has joined to itself, within a few months, the Dollar Magazine. This is a very interesting work, and furnishes many choice selections of the best literature of the day, both foreign and American. Published in New York by Angell, Engel & Hewitt, also publishers of the Clerk's Journal, Dicken's Household Words, &c. Its terms are \$1.00 per annum.

WESTERN RESERVE FARMER AND DAIRYMAN. A new agricultural paper bearing the above title has been received. It is an octavo of sixteen pages, and is published in Jefferson, Ashburton county, Ohio on the 1st and 15th of every month by G. B. Miller. Messrs. R. M. Walker and N. E. French are the editors. As its name indicates, it will be devoted to the dissemination of information in agriculture, and that branch of it which is denominated dairying.

The first number exhibits skill and judgment in the mechanical execution, and good sense and discrimination in its editorials.

UNION ARTIST. A new magazine, and a "good looker" it is, too, has been started in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, devoted to Agriculture and Mechanics, called the Union artist, and edited by R. D. Hartshorn. It bids fair to be an able conductor in the good work of scattering abroad intelligence among the productive classes. It is illustrated with cuts and engravings, and is published monthly. Will the editor send us the back numbers?

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK. The number for March, vol. 44, is fresh, tasteful and blooming as ever, full of excellent sentiments and beautiful illustrations. Two splendid full page engravings "meet you at the threshold." One of them is "The Cottage's Sunday morning," engraved by Welch, and the other is "The Soldier's Dream of Home," engraved by Walter. Godey asks which is the best! Both of them—though we think the device of the Soldier's dream is the most touching. In addition to these plates there are music plates and pictorial embossments liberally showered over the work, making a rich number of it.

SARTAIN'S MAGAZINE. Sartain, though not so old, (vol. 10.) is by no means younger in the matter of beauty of embellishments or value of literary matter. The number for March, as usual, is full of rare touches of art, and free, full gushes of good sense and good sentiment. He never gets out a poor work, and always gives you the money's worth.

LAW DECISIONS.

REPORTED FOR THE FARMER.

STOWELL ET AL. GOODENOW AND ROUNDS. Positively, which a party may contend for at trial, if not presented as requests for instruction, do not furnish matter of exception, unless they were directly noticed by the Court in its rulings or instructions.

Such a contract, between the holder of a note and the principal thereon, as would discharge the surety, if made prior to the pay day, would have the same effect, though made subsequent to his operation—she knows no other locality. Her body is on the earth, her throne is in the skies!

She declares that "the gods many and the lords many," who bewilder humanity, shall be reduced to dust and ashes before the heaven-born rays of the Gospel. She is embazoned high on the banner of Hope and the escutcheon of immortality.

True—Christianity claims the world as the sphere of her command, her to do it. There are several cogent reasons why she should do it.

First—Throughout the eastern world, woman is regarded as of inferior nature to the other sex, by which she is held in profound subjection, and treated as a being formed solely to minister to the passions, pleasures and caprices of the monarch lord. Heaven calls upon Christianity to raise her from that degraded state to the equal participation in the privileges and enjoyments of man; and she must obey the behest.

Secondly—Paganism and Buddhism are so blended by absurd and wicked customs as to engender a blind superstition, and thereby lead to moral dissolution, and ought to be destroyed.

Thirdly—Those teachings of divine things, which Christ imparted to mankind, are the most perfect and the most sacred, because they harmonize as completely with the economy of nature as with the eternal laws of the spiritual world. Christianity claims the world as the sphere of her operation—she knows no other locality. Her body is on the earth, her throne is in the skies!

She declares that "the gods many and the lords many," who bewilder humanity, shall be reduced to dust and ashes before the heaven-born rays of the Gospel. She is embazoned high on the banner of Hope and the escutcheon of immortality.

True—Christianity claims the world as the sphere of her command, her to do it. There are several cogent reasons why she should do it.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EUROPE.



ARRIVAL OF THE CAMBRIA.

The steamer Cambria, from Liverpool, with dates to the 7th inst., arrived at Halifax of Saturday afternoon last. We copy from the telegraphic despatch to the Portland Advertiser.

English Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on the 2d inst. In the royal speech the Queen makes the continuance of the most friendly relations with foreign powers.

The war at the Cape and the recent outrages in certain counties of Ireland are briefly noticed; as well as the affairs of the Dutchies of Holstein and Schleswig. Her Majesty refers to the improvements contemplated to be made of the administration of justice, in various departments, bills in relation thereto having been directed to be prepared.

"It gives me great satisfaction to be able to state that you have large collections of taxes which have taken place of late years, have not been attended with a proportionate diminution of the national income. The revenue of the past year has been fully adequate to the public service, while the reduction of taxation has tended greatly to the relief and comfort of my subjects."

Her Majesty concludes, "I acknowledge with thankfulness to Almighty God, that tranquility, good order, and willing obedience to law, continue to prevail generally throughout the country. It appears to me that this is a fitting time for calculating whether it may be advisable to make such alterations in the representation of the Commons in Parliament as may be deemed calculated to carry into more complete effect the principles upon which that law is founded. I have the fullest confidence that in such consideration you will firmly adhere to the acknowledged principles of the constitution by which the prerogatives of the Crown, the authority of both Houses of Parliament, and the rights and liberties of the people, are equally secured."

In a speech, Sir Benj. Hall, on the first night, asked for an explanation of the causes of Lord Palmerston's resignation, which the Premier immediately gave, assuring that Palmerston was refractory, treated the Queen's interrogations with contemptuous silence, acted independent of his colleagues, and unreservedly approved the recent military coup d'état of Louis Napoleon. To this Palmerston replied at some length, and though damaging his late colleagues, he did not improve his own position.

The Earl of Derby in his speech on the address, implied a proposal of Louis Napoleon's to be adopted for the re-establishing the ecclesiastical bill in force, and once more demanded protection for the agricultural portion of the community and the abolition of the income tax.

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The Abbé Le Cordaire and M. Léardine, two of the most popular French preachers had received orders to leave France.

Paris letters state that spies are present at all social festivities.

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M. Leon Sanchez intends to stand for the representation of Paris. A mixed commission in place of the late military one had been formed to investigate the case of the prisoners in custody before the trial of the Legislator. The committee on division of towns reported to the next Legislature on petition of S. L. Fish et al. of North Bangor, to be off set and incorporated into a new town—Arched.

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The Muse.

MY BIRTH DAY.

BY THOMAS MOORE.

"My birth day!"—what a different sound
That word had in my youthful ears!
And how, each time the day comes 'round,
Less and less white its mark appears.

When first our scanty years are told,
It seems like pastime to grow old;

And, as Youth counts the shining links,

That Time around him binds so fast,

Pleas'd with the task, he little thinks

How hard that chisel will press at last.

Vain was the man, and false as vain,

Who said, "We're ordained to run

His long career of life again,

He would do all that he had done."

Ab's, it's not the voice that dwells

In sober birth days, speaks to me;

For otherwise—of it tells,

Lavished unmercifully, carelessly;

Of counsel mocked; of talents, made

Haply for high and pure designs,

But oh, like Israel's incense, laid

Upon cumbry, earthly shrines;

Or nursing many a wrong desire;

Of wandering after Love too far,

And taking every meteor fire.

"How little of the past would stay!

How quickly all would melt away—

All—but that Freedom of the Mind,

Which hath been more than wealth to me;

Those friendships, in his boyhood twin'd,

And kept till now unchangedly;

And that dear home, that saving ark,

Where love's true light at last I've found,

Cheering within, when all grows dark

And comfortless and stormy round!"

From Sartain's Magazine.

HOME HAPPINESS.

"Let no happy children be disturbed and grieved."

[Frederick William III., of Prussia.]

"The influence of home happiness on the young, is a protection against sin in future life."

Make bright the hearth where children throng

In innocence and glee,

With smiles of love,—the carol song,—

The spirit's harmony.—

The healthful sports, the cheeks that flush,

The mother's fond care,—

Nor let the stalwart father blush

His merry boy to blisse;

For a fair the wife of life,

When her bit shall bear,

That halloed gleam shall cheer the strife

And gild the clouds of care.

If midnight storms and breakers roar,

Its treasured spell shall be

A lighthouse 'mid the rocking shore,

The star of memory.—

RECORDING ANGELS.

There are two angels that attend unseen

Each one of us, and in great books record

Our good and evil deeds. He who writes down

The good ones, after every action, closes

His volume, and ascends with it to God.

The other keeps his dreadful day-book open

Till sunset, that we may repent ; which doing,

The record of the action fades away,

And leaves a line across the page.

[Longfellow.]

The Story-Celler.

THE TWO WIDOWS.

BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

The following story, the simple and domestic incidents of which may be deemed scarcely worth relating, after such a lapse of time, awakened a degree of interest, a hundred years ago, in a principal seaport of the bay of Massachusetts. The rainy twilight of an autumn day ; a parlor on the second floor of a small house, plainly furnished, as beseeched the middling circumstances of its inhabitants, yet decorated with little curiosities from beyond the sea, and a few delicate specimens of Indian manufacture—these were the only particulars to be premised in regard to scenes and season. Two young and comely women sat together by the fire-side, nursing their mutual and peculiar sorrows. They were the recent brides of two brothers, a sailor and a landsman, and two successive days had brought tidings of the death of each, by the chances of Canadian warfare and the tempestuous Atlantic. The universal sympathy excited by this bereavement, drew numerous condoling guests to the habitation of the widowed sisters. Several, among whom was the minister, had remained till the eve of evening ; when, one by one, whispering many comfortable passages of Scripture, that were answered by more abundant tears, they took their leave and departed to their own happier homes. The mourners, though not insensible to the kindness of their friends, had yearned to be left alone. United as they had been, by the relationship of the living, and now more closely so by that of the dead, each felt as if whatever consolation her grief admitted, was to be found in the bosom of the other. They joined their hearts, and wept together silently. But after an hour of such indulgence, one of the sisters, after some emotions were influenced by her mild, quiet, yet not feeble character, began to recollect the precepts of resignation and endurance which piety had taught her, when she did not think to need them. Her misfortunes, besides, as earliest known, should earliest cease to interfere with her regular course of duties ; accordingly, having placed the table over the fire, and arranged a frugal meal, she took the hand of her companion.

"Come, dearest sister, you have not eaten a morsel to-day," she said. "Arise, I pray you, and let us ask a blessing on that which is provided for us."

Her sister-in-law was of a lively and irritable temperament, and the first pang of her sorrow had been expressed by shrieks and passionate lamentation. She now shrank from Mary's words, like a wounded sufferer from a hand that revives the throb.

"There is no blessing for me, neither will I ask it," cried Margaret, with a fresh burst of tears. "Would it were his will that I might never taste food more!"

Yet she trembled at these rebellious expressions, almost as soon as they were uttered, and by degrees, Mary succeeded in bringing her sister's mind nearer to the situation of her own.

Time went on, and their usual hour of repose arrived. The brothers and their brides entered the married state with no more than the slender means which then sanctioned such a step, and confederated themselves in one household, with equal rights to the parlor, and claiming exclusive privileges in two sleeping rooms contiguous to it. Thither the widowed ones retired, after helping ashes upon the dying embers of the fire, and placing a lighted lamp upon the hearth. The doors of both chambers were left open, so that a part of the interior of each, and the beds, with their unclosed curtains, were reciprocally visible. Sleep did not steal upon the sisters at one and the same time. Mary experienced the effect consequent upon grief quietly borne, and

soon sunk into temporary forgetfulness, while Margaret became more disturbed and feverish in proportion as the night advanced with its deepest and stillest hours. She lay listening to the drops of rain that came down in monotonous succession, unswayed by a breath of wind, and a nervous impulse continually causing her to lift her head from the pillow, and gaze into Mary's chamber and the intermediate apartment. The cold light of the lamp threw the shadows of the furniture up against the wall, stamping them immovably there, except when they were shaken by a sudden flicker of the flame. Two vacant arm-chairs were in their old position on opposite sides of the hearth, where the brothers had been wont to sit in young and laughing dignity, as heads of families ; two humbler seats were near them, the true thrones of that little empire, where Mary and herself had exercised in love a power that love had won. The cheerful radiance of the fire had shone upon the happy circle, and the dead glimmer of the lamp might have bespoken their reunion now. While Margaret groaned in bitterness, she heard a knock at the street door.

"How would my heart have leapt at that sound but yesterday!" thought she, remembering the anxiety with which she had long awaited tidings from her husband. "I care not for it now; let them begone, for I will not arise."

But even while a sort of childish trepidation made her thus resolve, she was breathing hurriedly and straining her ears to catch a repetition of the summons. It is difficult to be convinced of the death of one whom we have deemed another self. The knocking was now renewed with the soft end of a double fist, and was accompanied by words faintly heard through several thicknesses of the wall. Margaret looked to her sister's chamber and beheld her sly lying in the depths of sleep. She arose, placed her foot upon the floor, and slightly aroused herself, trembling between fear and eagerness as she did so.

"Heaven help me!" sighed she. "I have nothing left to fear, and methinks I am now more a coward than ever."

Seizing the lamp from the hearth, she hastened to the window that overlooked the street door. It was a lattice, turning upon hinges ; and having thrown it back, she stretched her head a little way into the moist atmosphere. A lantern was reddening the front of the house, and melting its light in the neighboring puddles, while a deluge of darkness overwhelmed every object. As the window grated on its hinges, a man in a broad-brimmed hat and blanket coat stepped from under the shelter of the projecting story, and looked upward to discover whom his application had aroused. Margaret knew him as a friendly inn-keeper of the town.

"What would you have, goodman Parker?" cried the widow.

"Lack-a-day! is it you, mistress Margaret?" replied the innkeeper. "I was afraid it might be your sister Mary ; for I hate to see a young woman in trouble, when I haven't a word of comfort to whisper to her."

"For heaven's sake, what news do you bring?" screamed Margaret.

"Why, there has been an express through the town this half-hour," said goodman Parker, "traveling from the eastward jurisdiction with letters from the Governor and council. He tarried at my house to refresh himself with a drop and a morsel, and I asked him what tidings on the frontiers informed him. He told me we had the better in the skirmish you wot of, and that thirteen men repented slain, are well and sound, and your husband among them. Besides, he is appointed on the escort to bring the captivated Frenchmen and Indians home to the provincial jail. I judged you wouldn't mind being broke of your rest, and so I stepped over to tell you. Good-night."

So saying, the honest man departed ; and his lantern gleamed along the street, bringing to view indistinct shapes of things, and the fragment of a world, like order glimmering through a chaos, or memory robbing over the past. But Margaret stayed not to watch these picturesque effects. Joy flushed into her heart and lighted it up at once, and breathless, with winged steps, she flew to the bed of her sister. She paused, however, at the door of her chamber, and then said softly to her, "Shall I awaken her ?"

"Tell Gen. Austin that I shall never more from that spot till I move into my grave. It is true, I committed a great crime in my native State ; but I also suffered the severe penalty of the offended law, and then, with my dear wife and children, who still love me, I stole away from the eyes of society, which I no longer wish to serve or injure, to live in quiet and die in peace. It was his dinner hour—she was to go to bed.

"Ah! you young thief—you were nearly off, were you?—come along—I am a magistrate—shall go to jail," and with these words he dragged the culprit into his office.

The boy burst into tears.

"Oh! sir," he said, "let me go—I only stole a loaf of bread, and I wouldn't have done it, but I was starving. Mother and I haven't eaten any thing to-day, and mother is sick. I never slept before. Let me go, and I'll never do it again."

The magistrate's office was now full of people, the baker being among the number. The boy was sobbing pitifully. The magistrate ordered lights, for hitherto the room had been dark.

"The young villain—so early in crime—these match boys should all be sent to the house of refuge," said one of the spectators.

"I have seen the rascal prowling about my door for the hour," said the baker.

"Stop crying," said one of the watchmen, giving the boy a violent shake. "You're done for, you're gone—so no whimpering."

The glare of the lights that were now brought in, fell full on the face of the magistrate, who had taken his seat, and then shot their brilliant glare across the group of spectators until it rested on the eyes of the boy. At that instant the magistrate started. He got up and looked over his desk more closely at the boy.

"The lad really seems in want," said he with a kindly tone, leaving his chair and advancing to the culprit, whose hand he took. "Are you not at once, and breathless, and with winged steps, she flew to the bed of her sister. She paused, however, at the door of her chamber, and then said softly to her, "Shall I awaken her ?"

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"Oh! yes, sir—and what news do you bring?" cried the widow.

"I will go and see Martin myself," added the Gen. "but he will have to make out strong cause to alter my determination."

"This must be incurred to God, I suppose," said the widow.

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"Reader! this is no fancy sketch. Such incidents occur almost daily in our great cities. God help us to do our duty."

Take a company of boys chasing butterflies, and put long tailed coats on the boys, and turn the butterflies into dollars, and you will have a beautiful panorama of the vices of their individual subjects."

Said Deacon Grant, "I am told, Mr. Paine, that you are becoming a terrible hard drinker."

"Not a bit," cried Paine, "not a bit—no man ever drank easier."

Politeness is like an air cushion,—there is really not much in it, but it is wonderfully useful.

"Cheer up, Mary, for I seek to comfort you," answered the rejected lover. "You must know that I got ten minutes ago, and the first thing my mother told me about was your husband."

"So without saying a word to the old woman, I clapped on my hat and ran out of the

THE LOAF OF BREAD.

BY JANE WEAVER.

"Buy my matches—oh! do buy them, sir," said a plaintive voice.

The person addressed, clad in a heavy overcoat, was breasting the sharp wind of a December day; his throat was muffled up, leaving only a portion of his face discernible, but his dress bespoke him a man of comfort.

"I don't want your matches, lad," said he.

"But buy them—six boxes for a fip."

"Get out of the way," said the man sharply.

"Oh! do buy some," said the boy, detaining him by the skirt of his coat. "Mother is sick, and I've had nothing to eat to-day. Do buy a fip's worth."

The man hesitated. The natural impulse of his heart was for good ; but he was one accustomed to think the world worse than it was.

"Pshaw!" he said, "that is the old story ; get out of the way, you young scamp, or I'll have you arrested."

The boy meekly drew back, but a tear froze on his cheek.

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